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Preparing Arkansas's Children For The Future

Across Arkansas, students and teachers are gearing up for another school year. As parents purchase notebooks, pencils, and rulers, it's imperative that we also provide our children with the knowledge and training they need for future success.

Earlier today, <u>I introduced the Enhancing Flexibility for</u>
<u>Effective Schools</u> (EFES) Act, a revised version of my No Child
Left Behind Enhancement Act. The EFES Act implements
many of the recommendations I heard from constituents during
my statewide education tour in 2007 when I met with teachers,
administrators, parents, and students about what aspects of
current policy work and what changes are needed.

Teachers and administrators told me, don't lower your expectations; just give us realistic goals we can reach and the tools to help us reach those goals. The EFES Act will give schools the flexibility and the tools they need to help students succeed while maintaining accountability measures.

There is no issue more intricately connected to the future prosperity of our nation than the quality of our public schools. Parents are an essential piece of that success, and last month I spoke with the national Parent Teacher Association about my experiences as a PTA mom and how they affect my work in Congress. You can listen to the interview here.

With Arkansas Pride,

Blanch R. Linish

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